



DEAF

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August 28, 2002

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Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

SEP 06 2002

FCC - MAILROOM

Dear Ms Dortch:

Ultratec's Petition on CapTel – Docket 98-67

On behalf of the clients, staff and Board of Directors of Deaf Counseling, Advocacy & Referral Agency (DCARA), I am writing to you to support Ultratec's Petition to the FCC on the offering of CapTel service. Whilst having personally experienced the use of CapTel phone, I can tell you that it is a tremendous advance over the current voice carry-over (VCO) process. I hope to be a beneficiary of the trial that is being planned in California. I feel very certain that it will enhance the quality of my functioning as CEO of DCARA.

At present, I am using an amplified telephone with my hearing aid, which has an the induction coil. Even with that I have problems with hearing what people are saying to me. Prior to CapTel, it was a dream to be able to dial directly to my contacts during the course of my normal working day, be able to read the display of what exactly is being said, and still be able to hear my callers.

I believe that many of the deaf, hard of hearing and deafened clients that we at DCARA serve throughout the year who use the VCO or two-line VCO methods of communicating over the telephone will benefit enormously from this CapTel service.

DCARA provides services for deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind clients as well as their friends, and families. The majority of our staff and Board of Directors are deaf or hard of hearing. We offer services in 14 counties in the Bay Area and northwestern California. We are experienced in meeting the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people.

CapTel should be recognized by the FCC as a reimbursable TRS service, as are other relay services such as IP Relay and Video Relay Service.

Yours sincerely,

Robert I. Roth
Chief Executive Officer

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